

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
WILLIAM HIGHTOWER Chapter #35



# NEWSLETTER

January 2016



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

**President's Notes:** A number of interesting people were born in the month of January. Many of their lives had a marked signature on the founding of this great nation. Paul Revere was born on Jan 1, 1735. He was a well-known coppersmith in Boston, but gained notoriety when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem, in 1860, titled "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." Anthony Wayne was born on the same day in 1745. He rose to the rank of Brigadier General during the Revolution and received the title of "Mad Anthony" for his fiery personality. Betsy Ross was also born on that date in 1752. She took over her husband's upholstery business after he was killed in a gunpowder explosion serving in the militia. Her grandson, William J. Canby, made her famous, at the age of 84, when he wrote a report that she made the first flag of 13 stars. It has never been proven. Her husband's Uncle George was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Benedict Arnold was born on Jan 14, 1741. Although he was noted for his bravery in the capture of Montreal, stopping the British Navy's advance on Lake Champlain, and heroism at the Battle Of Saratoga, he is more famous for attempting to sell West Point to the British. Benjamin Franklin was born on Jan 17, 1706. We remember him for his shocking experience of flying a kite in a storm. Dr. Franklin ran interference for the Colonies in England, between 1765 and 1775, before he was asked to leave, then shared his wisdom in the Continental Congress. John Hancock was born on Jan 23, 1737. He was chased out of Concord just before the first shot sounded, served as President of the Continental Congresses and has the honor of being the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. The last to be mentioned is the last to arrive in the colonies. Thomas Paine was born in England on Jan 29, 1737. His claim to fame is attempting to teach the colonists a little "Common Sense", which was published on Jan 10, 1776.

If you missed the January meeting, you missed out on the question of what famous Patriots were born in January? After introducing some new candidates and recognizing a transfer member, I turned the meeting over to Joe Cox, who is the temporary chairman of the Essay Committee. He announced Miss Hannah Robinett as the 2016 winner of the Essay contest and I presented her with a medal and certificate.

These next three months are busy in that we are finishing up our business year. I have appointed a nominations committee to present a slate of candidates for this next year. Since our terms are generally for two years, that committee must confirm those positions and only replace those who are not able to serve. This will be voted on in the February meeting and installed in the March meeting. I have also appointed an audit committee to

report on the state of the finances in the March meeting. The Treasurer will present a proposed budget at that meeting, also. Each committee chairman needs to submit his financial needs to the Treasurer by the end of February.

Even though we have a registrar and an assistant, it is the responsibility of every member to search out candidates. Get copies of the chapter brochure and provide them to your friends and family. If you are a member of another organization, ask if they need a speaker. Join our speaker's bureau or ask one of us to come and speak to your group.

Next month is George Washington's birthday. In addition to local proclamations, I am encouraging members to attend the GW Parade in Laredo on Feb 20. Don't forget to work on your patriot bio. You want this chapter to work so get involved. Become an active participating member. We cannot do it without you. This is your chapter.

Stu Hoyt, Pres. WH#35, TXSSAR, NBSAR.net

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President Hoyt began the meeting with a question, "Do you know what famous patriots were born this month?" Someone answered with one name, Thomas Paine, which was true, but no one thought to read the list on the front of the agenda!

After the Invocation and Pledges to the flags, President Hoyt welcomed three new Associates, Robert Starnes, Tom Jones and Jim Lanning, and a new transfer, Richard Garsnett. Registrar Hollis mentioned that Compatriot Pryor is working on applications for several more Associates.



Compatriot Garsnett is transferring in from the Richard Montgomery Chapter in Dayton, Ohio. He has been an SAR member for two years and entered through his Revolutionary War patriot ancestor, his fifth great grandfather, Archibald Carmichael, who was a private in the North Carolina Militia. Carmichael was born in 1754 in Yorkshire, Scotland and died in the United States in 1827.

Richard's wife, Kay, is from New Braunfels, is a member of the DAR and is also a certified archivist who is presently working with the DAR ladies who oversee the library at the Alamo.



Dr. Tim England, who chaired the Essay Committee last year, is requesting to be replaced as he needs to devote more time to his academic responsibilities. Compatriot Joe Cox temporarily accepted the position. The winner of this year's Essay Contest was Hannah Robinett, the granddaughter of Compatriot Dick Robinett and Joanne Robinett who proudly sponsored her. Hannah's winning essay was entitled "Birth Through

Unity." She loves to write and enters similar competitions at William J. Brennan High School in San Antonio where she is a Senior with a 4.0 GPA. After she graduates on June 8<sup>th</sup> she will attend the Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas next fall where she will study psychology/counseling as well as youth ministry. Following the reading of her essay she was presented with the George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest Medal and certificate. After that presentation President Hoyt then called forward Mr. and Mrs. Robinett and awarded them with a Certificate of Appreciation for sponsoring Hannah. Hannah will now enter the state competition and hopefully go on to national. The Chapter is looking forward to following her progress.



President Hoyt announced that Secretary Tim Killam will be leaving his position to devote more time to his work which now is including a significant amount of travel. Compatriot Killam has done an extraordinary job of record keeping for the Chapter and it has significantly improved as a result. Anyone interested in the office should notify President Hoyt. Compatriot Killam will remain a

member of the Chapter and plans to visit when able.

President Hoyt announced that according to the By-laws the business year ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> and we need to have a new list of officers by then. A Nominating Committee has been formed and the slate will soon be announced. A new Audit will also be needed and a Budget is required. Chairs need to submit their needs to the Treasurer so he can present the Budget in March for approval.

Biographies of Compatriot Ancestors are still needed for our website. There may be an awards program for the Chapters as they complete certain percentages. President Hoyt is awaiting more information on this. Visit the Chapter website to view those ancestors who have already been submitted.

Compatriot Hollis announced that the Herald-Zeitung has published three of his historical articles. He has thirteen months' worth of articles in preparation with half of those ready for submission. If anyone receives this newspaper please cut out the articles, including the page number, date, and newspaper name, and submit them to the Historian for the Yearbook. Also, call the Editor and let him know how much you appreciate the publishing of these articles.

President Hoyt is planning to attend the George Washington Parade in Laredo on February 20<sup>th</sup> and is asking for members to join him, preferably in uniform. Rooms in a local hotel have already been secured.

The Stark Report is due in February. All Veteran activities need to be reported to President Hoyt for submission in this report. This includes if you have visited Veterans in hospitals, in homes, etc., or simply spoken to any Veterans about the SAR.

As for recruitment, President Hoyt stated, "If we recruit new members with the direct support of a DAR member, they may be eligible for an SAR medal".

President Hoyt has set several goals for the upcoming year:

- Recruitment of at least 10 new members
- Locating and placing flags on 200 veteran graves
- Enhancing our speakers' bureau. Refer to the web site. President Hoyt spoke to several classes of 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders recently and showed Revolutionary memorabilia.
- Promote historical articles in the local newspaper
- Create and promote a Chapter Color Guard for local events
- Seek out a history teacher for our History Teacher of the Year Award
- Recognize members for their outstanding work with awards

The Oration Contest Awards will take place at the next Chapter Meeting, February 11th. Compatriot Joe Cox chairs this committee. See you there.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nbtxsar> Website: <http://www.nbsar.net>

